Notes of a private conversation with Mr. M. Venkatakrishnayya at Lake - View, Mysore, on 26th June 1918.

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Mr. M. Venkatakrishnayya met me at 5.30 p.m. in response to a letter addressed by my Under Secretary - requesting him to see me at that hour if convenient to him.

2. He seemed to be in a despondent mood. I reminded him of his promise to me that he would give up writing in his paper on the non-Brahmin question and against Mr. Reddy. His reply was that other papers, the "Star" and "Vokkaligara Patrike" were taking sides that he could not keep quiet and allow their allegations to go unrefuted.

3. As regards the non-Brahmin - question, he thought His Highness' reply was eminently sound and satisfactory. He on his side would not continue the agitation if the other side - gave up theirs.

4. In regard to Mr. Reddy, he - ~~xxxxxx~~ stated that he started criticising the conduct of Mr. Reddy in his paper on public grounds on receipt of certain reliable information regarding his conduct while he was Principal. He has made certain defamatory statements against Mr. Reddy which the latter had not refuted. It is open to Mr. Reddy

to clear his conduct in a Court of Lw. His criticisms had reference to a ~~xxkkkx~~ matter of public interest but Mr. Reddy, since he became Inspector-General of Education, was using his official - position to ruin him.

He stated that Mr. Reddy had - written a number of letters against him to Mr. Denham who is Chairman of the - Marimallappa's School Committee. Mr. Denham is said to have stated that it - was the wish of His Highness the Yuvaraja that he should be removed from the office of Headmaster of the Marimallappa's School. The Trustees, easily - - yielding to this hint, had given him - three months' notice to quit office, of which about one month had already elapsed. Mr. Denham, without looking into - the papers, alleged that, in regard to his salary, he (Mr. Venkatakrishnayya) had misappropriated the funds of the - Committee. The Secretary subsequently pointed out that the allegation was - - wrong and had shown authority in Mr. Denham's own handwriting.

Mr. Reddy had stated that he wanted to personally examine the accounts of the Marimallappa's School - - although he had no authority to do so. Mr. Venkatakrishnayya wanted a Government auditor to do this and not Mr. Reddy.

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In the case of another school of which Mr. Venkatakrishnayya was - - Secretary, the passes this year were - very unsatisfactory. So also were the the results in the Maharani's High - - School and in the Marimallappa's school. All these he attributes to what he considers the malign influence of Mr. - Reddy.

5. Mr. Venkatakrishnayya stated that he had sacrificed his all for public work. He had earned Rs.30,000 for the school and improved the buildings - and property. Marimallappa's Charities gave the school only Rs.125 a - - month of which Rs.50 were given to - - scholarships for Lingayet boys. The - real income from the Marimallappa's - Charities was only Rs.60. Government gave Rs.350 and from school fees he - realised Rs.700 to Rs.800. After all, he stated, the school was maintained mainly by the exertions of the staff.

Asked why he should object - to giving up office at this age, he - said it was not the office that he - - cared for but the manner and circumstances in which his removal was being encompassed.

He feels that the Trustees - have behaved badly by dishonouring him. He did not care to stop on but, considering the service he had done to the - school, they should have allowed him to

go with honour instead of raising all sorts of doubts about the accounts and giving him notice in this summary manner. He was quite willing to leave the school ten years ago but the Trustees then would not let him go.

5. He also said that, in one or two articles, his correspondents had associated His Highness the Yuvaraja - with Mr. Basavaiya but that statement was handsomely contradicted in subsequent letters.

6. He stated that he was being persecuted because his persecutors - thought they had high authority behind them and because, in the discharge of his public duties as an editor, he had to criticise public officials. Now the public officials are being allowed to use their official authority to persecute him and he received no protection. This had driven him to desperation and he was therefore writing - - strong articles in his paper.

7. Lastly, he stated that, if some steps were taken to prevent the other side from continuing the persecution, he was willing to drop the - - agitation. His Highness' reply to the non-Brahmin deputation had cleared - the air and he was quite willing to abide by His Highness' decision in - whose wisdom and justice he had implicit faith. He said he would loyally

carry out whatever His Highness decides.

8. He also stated that one of his sons had gone mad and another was drawing a permanent pay of Rs.50 after 13 years' service. On account of his press activities, he had lost all that he had earned and he had also sold his house. Things were in a bad way for him. If this trouble continues and he was disgraced, he would have to go to Madras or some place outside Mysore and continue the agitation there.

9. After his conversation, Mr. Venkatakrishnayya gave an undertaking in writing that he would not discuss in a spirit of hostility the questions connected with the non-Brahmin agitation and Mr. Reddy for about a month.

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